BLUE · NETWORK · COMPANY

B-CPRO-7

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #536
PROGRAM TITLE

SUSTAINING
ADVERTISER

AGENCY

BERGOFFEN
WRITER

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1943
DAY & DATE

11:30-12:00 PM CWT BLUE
TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS	CAST
MARY...LUCILE HUSTING	
JERRY..CHARLES FLYNN	
BESS...KATHERINE CARD	
JIM....HARVEY HAYS	
STEWART..LEO CURLEY	

SOUND	REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:
This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: On Sunday, trees will have a significant role in Memorial Day observances all over America. Many people will be visiting the Memorial Groves and Forests where the trees stand as green, living monuments to our honored dead. Others will pay their respects to the more recent Victory Forests where young trees have been dedicated to our men now fighting for America. For the trees of America, being blessed by God with beauty and strength and unmatched usefulness, can be truly considered as noble servants of both the living and the dead.. Now to the Pine Cone Ranger Station, and on the porch we find Assistant Ranger Jerry Quick and his sweetheart, Mary Halloway, waiting for Ranger Jim Robbins and his wife, Bess, to join them in what promises to be a rather special Memorial Day observance. Here they are:

MARY: (FADING IN) Jerry, I do wish you'd brighten up...or at least tell me why you seem so..well..downhearted. Did I say something wrong or..

JERRY: I'm sorry, Mary. It hasn't a thing to do with you.

MARY: Then what is it? Please tell me.

JERRY: I guess when a fellow's lived with two swell people like Jim and Mrs. Robbins as long as I have..I guess he can't help feeling it too, when he knows they're troubled about something. I don't see why I should put you in the same boat, though.

MARY: Is it something about today, Jerry..Memorial Day?

JERRY: Yeah. Jim's kinda on a spot.

MARY: (PUZZLED) I don't understand.

JERRY: Well, look, you know how the Robbins usually spend Memorial Day, don't you?

MARY: Yes, of course. The Ranger and Mrs. Robbins always make a special visit to the Pine Cone Memorial Grove.

JERRY: Right. To David's pine..the tree they planted years ago to honor the memory of their son that they lost in the last war.

MARY: Yes, I know all that, Jerry, but..well, aren't they going to do the same thing this year?

JERRY: Yeah, but..well, I don't know..Jim and Mrs. Robbins always sorta feel that going up there to David's pine is something they want to do by themselves, all alone, see? Mrs. Robbins has always wanted it that way, especially, to be all alone with Jim in the Memorial Grove, on Memorial Day.

MARY: Well, what's to prevent them from going up by themselves today? You and I needn't go that far with them.

JERRY: That's just it. They can't. Not the way things've shaped up. There's going to be a whole bunch of men from the Army Camp at the Grove today, see?

MARY: How do you know?

JERRY: Because last night, one of the Chaplains at the camp..Chaplain Stewart..he came by here and told Jim that a lot of the soldiers wanted to go over and spend the day at the Grove, see? And they were hoping Jim would come up and give them a little Memorial Day talk.

MARY: Oh dear!

JERRY: What could Jim do? Of course he said he'd be glad to talk to the men.

MARY: And Mrs. Robbins?

JERRY: She was there when the Chaplain talked with Jim,but, well, she was pretty quiet all last night and this morning. Jim went off for a walk or something late last night..too.. and ..shucks..I know it's been kinda botherin' both of 'em.

MARY: I can understand how Mrs. Robbins feels, Jerry.

JERRY: Sure, so can I. But what's about Jim? He couldn't turn down those men with a request like that.

MARY: No, of course not. Maybe..maybe things will work out, Jerry. Let's you and I act as though everything were all right.

JERRY: Of course..Shh! I think they're coming.

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

JIM: (HEARTILY) Well, here they are, Bess. Acting like they had squatter's rights on our front porch.

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Mary and I were afraid we'd have to pitch a tent you two took so long getting ready.

BESS: (SERIOUS) I'm sorry, Jerry. We did take longer than I expected.

MARY: Oh, that's all right, Mrs. Robbins. It's such a lovely day, we didn't mind a bit.

JIM: (SERIOUS) Well, I reckon we better go along, huh? The soldier lads will be waiting..

BESS: Yes, of course..

PAUSE:

JERRY: (FADING IN) Hey, Jim, the Memorial Grove's off to the right. This trail'll take us over to that new timber sale area.

JIM: Yeah, I know.

BESS: Jim, I thought you were going to talk to the boys in Memorial Grove? Aren't we going to Memorial Grove, Jim?

MARY: (BRIGHTLY) Maybe there's an easier trail down to the Grove. Is that it, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: No, I'm afraid not, Mary. We're headed for the timber sale area like Jerry said.

BESS: But, Jim..

JIM: Look, Bess. I know what you're thinking. Don't worry, we're going to see David's pine later on. Everything's goin' to be all right.

BESS: Anything you say, Jim..

JERRY: Hey, there they are up ahead there, right in among those big trees we marked for cutting, Jim. And there's Chaplain Stewart. He sees us.

JIM: Yeah, he's headin' this way.

SOUND: OF VOICES OFF, BRING GRADUALLY ON, SUSTAIN IN BACKGROUND

STEWART: (COMING ON) Hello there, all of you.

ALL: Good morning, Chaplain. (ETC)

STEWART: Ranger, the men were tickled with the change in plans. I was a bit concerned when you suggested it last night..but the men liked the idea right off. We're ready anytime you are, Ranger.

JIM: Okay. Excuse me, Bess.

BESS: Go ahead, Jim.

JERRY: (SOTTO) So that's where Jim went last night, Mary. To call off the Memorial Grove talk.

MARY: (SOTTO) He did it for Mrs. Robbins' sake, I know. Look. The Chaplain's going to speak.

FADE DOWN SOUND OF VOICES

STEWART: (RAISING VOICE) All right, men. Oh, you needn't stand. Sit on the ground. Lean up against the trees if you like. I don't think Ranger Robbins here will mind.

JIM: 'Course not. Go on. Get comfortable, men. There's no need to be formal here.

MURMUR OF VOICES UP AND OUT

STEWART: (VOICE UP) Well, I won't have to go to any length to introduce the man who was good enough to sacrifice part of his own plans for today..his first day off in a long time, I understand - to come up here - in the forest and talk to us. You know him. Some of you have had the benefit of his woods experience in those special classes at camp. Some of you have run across him when you were taking your long hikes and getting your mountaineering training. You've always found him friendly and helpful..it was you who asked that he come here. So men, here's Ranger Robbins.

APPLAUSE, THEN GRADUALLY OUT

JIM: Fellows, you wanted to get together today in the memory of your loved ones who have departed. Most of you are now far away from the places where those loved ones were laid to rest. And so, we came out in the woods here. Out among the trees on this Memorial Day.....I know you fellers planned, at first, that I'd give my little talk in our Memorial Grove. But it seemed to me that maybe it'd be a better idea if we came out here in a forest planted by Nature instead of one planted by man. Not that we object to man-made forests, mind you. Heaven knows we need plenty more of those in this country. But in Memorial Grove, there're trees growing for just <u>one</u> mighty noble purpose... to honor some brave men who had the same job to do some twenty-five years ago that you men sitting here are facing again today. And in Memorial Grove that's about all I could have said, I guess. I doubt if that would've satisfied you. It might even have left you kinda empty and you men don't need to feel that way. No sir. Not with the hope and glory that lie ahead of you and the promise of getting the job done better this time. At any rate, I know it wouldn't have satisfied me, and I shouldn't wonder but that those men the trees are named for in Memorial Grove ... I wonder if they, too, wouldn't rather've had us go a little beyond that in our thoughts today...

MARY: (SOTTO) Look, Mrs. Robbins. The way those men are watching the Ranger.

BESS: (SOTTO) Yes, Mary, I've noticed.

JIM: Some of these big trees around us here are marked for cutting, as you see. They'll be on their way to war with you fellows before long. These trees are being dedicated, through use, to the same cause you soldiers are serving. Maybe they can help us to keep our spirits high, to strengthen our strength, and to hold the fire of our faith in this great country of ours. The trees of the forest, American forests, are marching to war with you...

STEWART: (SOTTO) Jerry, I wish more of the boys could've been here. Your Ranger's all right.

JERRY: (SOTTO) Jim's talking from his heart, Chaplain. I know. Listen.

JIM: You've probably noticed that some trees are not marked for cutting and some of you are probably wonderin' why. I'll tell you. They're like your kid brothers at home, men. Those trees are not yet ready to join in the fight. When they are, they'll be on their way to war, too, if they're needed. In the meantime, they'll keep on growing against the hope that maybe they can go to serve the ways of peace instead of making weapons of war. And just like you men are going to give everthing you've got to end the war as soon as you can so your kid brothers - and sisters, too - can live their lives in peace rather than in war, we Rangers are going to do everything we can to protect these younger trees so they'll serve their best purpose in the years ahead. And we hope it will be for peace...It may be that some of you men some day will be doing the job of harvesting these trees for peaceful things...that you'll find that future security you're looking for right here in this forest.

STEWART: (SOTTO) That's right, we'll be needing the forests after the war, all right, too.

JERRY: (SOTTO) Yeah, and the forests will need the help of these men, Chaplain.

JIM: And then there are the tiny little trees growing all around us, the baby trees, here in this forest that nature planted. It seems to me, what we're doing here, in thinking about these trees for tomorrow, is something like what you fellows are setting out to do for a lot of folks in the small countries across the water. In taking out the big timber that's ripe and ready for use we're making it possible for these seedlings to get more light and water and to grow to full service. You men, now, you're going to make it possible for a lot of down-trodden people to get free of their chains by getting rid of the forces of evil that might've kept them forever stunted and beaten without your help. Yes, you'll finally be giving light and water and food to folks that need those things. The lumberjacks who'll be in here tomorrow morning gripping their axes, and you men with your guns are all doing a job for freedom -- until the day comes when all of us can start pitching in on happier things..Well, that's my little Memorial Day talk, men. Kinda all mixed up with forestry and war, wasn't it? And yet, I'm thinking we're spending this Memorial Day as those men who are honored by the trees in Memorial Grove would have wanted us to spend it. They knew, all of them, the strength and hope and faith a person can get from a fine forest of trees.

(MORE)

JIM: (CONT'D)

Trees and men can grow and live in usefulness and service, and when their day is done, they can take comfort in the knowledge that other trees and other men will be coming along to carry on and help build a better world.... Good luck, men, in the job you've got to do from here out, and may God keep you....

MURMUR OF VOICES.

STEWART: And now, men, shall we join in repeating the Lord's Prayer.. Our Father..(VOICES OFF TAKE IT UP, FADE RAPIDLY TO BACKGROUND WAY OFF, UNDER FOLLOWING)

JIM: (OVER BACKGROUND VOICES) Oh, Bess?...Bess?

BESS: Yes, Jim?

JIM: Bess, shall we go down to David's tree, now..just the two of us?

BESS: (TENDERLY) No, we don't need to now, Jim..

JIM: But, Bess, I thought you wanted to..

BESS: I did, Jim, before you talked to these boys, but now, don't you see? He was here, Jim. David was right here with all of us. And he was so proud of you, I know. I felt his presence, Jim, here in my heart. Next year, maybe, we'll go to his tree again. But now, Jim, for not I think it will be enough if we just walk slowly down the trail, you and I. David will be beside us all the way.

JIM: Yes..I'm sure he will be, Bess. He hasn't been out of my mind all day, either.

BESS: I know, Jim.

MUSICALE FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Ranger's comes to you each week during the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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